

Cups

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The cups are one of her favourite toys. They're incredibly simple but that allows the imagination to find a number of uses for them. There are nine cups of various sizes and colours. They slot in one another, making a compact object when together or a sprawling mass when apart.

The largest cup is red, then orange, yellow, green, purple, blue, red, orange and yellow. It's slightly strange that the three smallest cups are the same colour as the three largest ones. Although it's as if the pattern has stopped and started again, which is logical.

Inside each cup are two holes. Also when I turn a cup over revealing the bottom, there's the head of an animal. From smallest to largest, the animals are mouse, duck, monkey, cat, dog, zebra, bear, tiger and giraffe. The holes have a number of functions. They ensure the child will not suffocate, they are the eyes for the animals and they filter out water when put in the cups.

At first the main action performed with the cups was to pick one up and put it in the mouth, keeping the lower mouth and chin visible, whilst the rest of face is hidden by the cup. Now the favourite action is to pick up one cup in each hand and hit them together. This action is performed with any combination of cups and can keep her amused for a long period of time.

The other day the cups were introduced to the paddling pool, whilst she sat in it. She struggled to pick up the cups when they were full of water but enjoyed hitting empty cups against the water's surface. She also enjoyed watching me lift cups of water, their contents filtering through the holes. She put her hands and feet under the running water, curious of how it would feel. She moved as the flowing water was trickled on hat and back. After a short time she became accustomed to the sensation and focused her attention on to the other cups.